



**FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT**
13-16 JULY 2015 · ADDIS ABABA · ETHIOPIA
TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION

POINTS TO MAKE

Deputy Prime Minister | Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

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3rd Financing for Development Conference

Plenary Session

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Addis Ababa | Ethiopia

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Quick Sum-up

(1) Introduction & where we stand today

(2) Slovakia and the shared responsibility

(3) Conclusion and our legacy

- It is an **honour** for me to **take part** in this conference, which shall pave the way to the **new post-2015** sustainable development agenda.
- It is also a **great pleasure** to be **once again in Ethiopia**. I would like to **extend my sincere gratitude** to the Government of Ethiopia and its people for their **warm welcome** and for **hosting the Third Conference** on Financing for Development.
- Our **common goal** here...is to provide the proper response to the very **noble question** of ...how to ensure **sustainable development** and **peaceful livelihood** for our **current** and **future generations**...
- One of the **crucial answers** fundamentally rests...of course...in the way *how WE*...members of the international community...*are ready* to support its **practical** and **real-life implementation** with both **financial** and **non-financial means**...
- Especially as we have made **significant steps forward** since our first **meeting in Monterrey**...At that time we looked at the **Monterrey Consensus** as a **milestone for global development partnership**, where all countries agreed to take **joint actions for fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals**...This was later reinforced by the **Doha Declaration** of 2008.
- Both documents provided a **strong basis** for deliberations on **development financing**, which would ensure...**poverty reduction, economic growth** and **environmental sustainability**.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

- *Slovakia*...as a **full-fledged** member of the **international donor** community...**fully understands the shared responsibility** this entails vis-à-vis our partner countries.

And allow me to explain in four short remarks why and how “we share & care”...

- *First of all*...we **fully support** the UN Secretary General’s **Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 agenda**, which **contributed substantially** to the discussions on a **new financing framework** for sustainable development...His report is a **universal call to transformative action**.
- It is worth mentioning that Slovakia **contributed to the work of Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters**. Our engagement provided us with a **strategic approach** that serves today as a **base for our current discussions**.
- *Secondly*...as an EU Member State...Slovakia has **agreed** to the EU collective **commitment** to **achieve the 0.7% ODA/GNI target** within the time frame of the **post-2015 agenda**...Also, being part of the EU common market...we **support** the grant of **quota-free** and **duty-free market access** of products coming from Least Developed Countries... upholding the rationale of **international trade** as an **engine** for development...In one sentence...Slovakia **aligns** itself to the **EU common position**.

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- **Third...**as a small and **relatively new donor...**Slovakia is aware of the **opportunities and challenges** a country encounters on **its transition** from an ODA **recipient** to become part of the international **donor** community...thus...
 - (1) we recognize that despite the **declining share of the ODA in external finance...**it **remains a crucial source** for sustainable development notably for Least Developed Countries ...we must exploit the catalytic role of ODA in **leveraging public and private financing** in order to enhance the **mobilization of all resources...**be it **international, domestic, public or private...**it is the **key feature of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda**.
 - (2) we are committed to **Domestic Resource Mobilization...**and we recognize that each country holds **primary responsibility for its own economic and social development...** Therefore, domestic resource mobilization is a **crucial prerequisite to solving development challenges in national contexts**.
 - Slovakia has **valuable knowledge** to share in this regard, especially in the area of **public finance management and fiscal decentralization...**We have accumulated **expertise** throughout our **own economic transition** following the downfall of communism...and are happy to **share our know-how on a peer-to-peer basis...**as we do in the **Western Balkans** and the **Eastern Partnership** countries.
 - We can offer more recent lessons learned: in **fiscal consolidation...** We have been pursuing an ambitious agenda to fight **tax evasion** and tax fraud since 2012...Our efforts have already translated into more effective **tax collection**, especially VAT.
 - Therefore, Slovakia encourages **deeper cooperation** in tax matters and an **inclusive approach** that engages the entire development community...We are ready to contribute to the **UN Capacity Development Programme in International Tax Cooperation** and to an empowered **Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters...**We also support the new **Addis Tax Initiative**.
 - (3) we shall **not forget to develop** also new, **innovative ways of financing** and to support them via a **multi-stakeholder** approach... Slovakia supports **public-private partnerships** for development and more extended use of **blended finance**, which is a mix of grant and loan instruments...We also believe that a **stronger bridge** must be built between the **development and innovation** communities, also through co-financing mechanisms.
 - (4) however, we must keep in mind...that the **implementation** of the new development agenda does not **depend** only on **financial** means, but also **non-financial** ones... **Democracy, rule of law, good governance, effective institutions, security and vibrant civil society** are some of the key **enablers of development...**In their turn, they **allow for** the **attraction of more development finance**, mainly from the **private sector**.

- *Last but not least...*the new development financing agenda will be **successfully implemented** if...and **only if**...there is a **solid, transparent and overarching monitoring, accountability and review framework**...It is also **critical to include** this framework as an integral part of the **monitoring framework** of the **post-2015 sustainable development agenda**.
- All participants need to **share the burden proportionately**...and **take responsibility** for committing themselves to sustainable goals...**Shared responsibility and mutual accountability are** not an option...but **a must**.
- In light of all the efforts and steps achieved so far...this conference has to provide us with a **balanced and transformative Addis Ababa Action Agenda** that will constitute the **means of implementation** of universal **Sustainable Development Goals**.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- In the long history of international community, there have been **plenty of historical moments**...But **2015** is **not just historical**...it should be seen **revolutionary**...the more so as we are currently living **irreversible changes** in our **environment** and **facing** many other **global challenges**.
- We **have to** prepare the way for the **decisive Post-2015 Summit**, but also **work for a successful COP 21** in Paris...We **MUST deliver** now...it is **our duty vis-à-vis our people**...a **responsibility** towards our **environment**...a **legacy** for world's **citizens of tomorrow** regardless of whether they are **rich and poor**...The **new goals ARE** finally **universal**...

Thank you for your attention!